

What is claimed is:

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1 1. A method of enabling a computer system to recognize specific
2 actions of a user, said method comprising:
3 displaying an image of a user within a window on a screen, said
4 window including a target area;
5 associating a first computer event with a first user action displayed
6 in said target area; and
7 storing information in a memory device such that said first user
8 action is associated with said first computer event.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said association comprises said
2 computer system detecting a change of state within said target area as said first
3 user action.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein said change of state comprises a
2 change of a pattern of color in said target area.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said association further comprises
2 storing a summary of said color pattern of said target area.

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1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said association comprises said
2 computer system detecting motion within said target area as said first user action.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said association comprises said
2 computer system detecting an object entering said target area as said first user
3 action.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said association comprises said
2 computer system recognizing said first user action as a specific computer function
3 to execute when said first user action occurs.

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1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said target area is one of a
2 rectangular area, a circular area and a square area.

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1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein said association comprises
2 associating a plurality of computer events while said first user action remains
3 displayed in said target area.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein said association comprises
2 associating a plurality of computer events with said first user action.

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1 11. The method of claim 1, further comprising positioning said target
2 area within said window

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein positioning said target area
2 comprises locating said target area within said window using user input
3 commands.

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1 13. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 producing another target area within said window;
3 associating a second computer event with a second user action
4 displayed in said another target area; and
5 storing information in said memory device such that said second
6 user action is associated with said second computer event.

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1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein said first computer event is a
2 mouse click action.

1 15. The method of claim 1, wherein said first user action comprises a
2 different image of said user within said target area.

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1 16. A method of using a computer system having an image capture
2 system that displays an image of a user on a display screen, said method
3 comprising:
4 enabling said computer system to recognize a specific user action
5 as corresponding to a specific computer event;
6 capturing said specific user action with said image capture system;
7 and
8 performing said specific computer event when said specific user
9 action is captured by said image capture system.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein said enabling comprises:
2 displaying said image of said user within a window on said display
3 screen, wherein a target area is located within said window;
4 associating said specific user action with said specific computer
5 event; and
6 storing information in a memory device such that said specific user
7 action is associated with said specific computer event.

1 18. The method of claim 16, further comprising positioning said target
2 area within said window.

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1 19. The method of claim 16, further comprising:
2 producing another target area within said window;
3 associating a second computer event with a second user action
4 displayed in said another target area; and
5 storing information in said memory device such that said second
6 user action is associated with said second user event.

1 20. A system that associates specific user actions with specific
2 computer commands, said system comprising:
3 an image capture system that captures an image of a user;
4 an image display system that displays said image captured by said
5 image capture system within a window on a display screen; and
6 a computer system that recognizes said specific user actions and
7 associates said specific user actions with said specific computer commands.

1 21. The system of claim 20, wherein said computer system includes a
2 training phase to train the computer system to recognize said specific user actions,
3 said training phase comprising:
4 displaying said image of said user that is captured by said image
5 capture system within said window on said display screen, said window including
6 a target area;

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associating a first computer command with a first user action
displayed in said target area; and
storing information in a memory device such that said first user
action is associated with said first computer command.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein said training phase further
comprises:
producing another target area within said window;
associating a second computer command with a second user action
displayed in said another target area; and
storing information in said memory device such that said second
user action is associated with said second computer command.

23. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly
embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform
method steps for training a system to recognize specific user actions, said method
steps comprising:
displaying an image of a user within a window on a screen, said
window including a target area;
associating a first computer event with a first user action displayed
in said target area; and

9 storing information in a memory device such that said first user
10 action is associated with said first computer event.

1 24. A method of enabling a computer system to recognize specific
2 actions of a user, said method comprising:
3 associating a first computer event with a first action displayed on a
4 display screen; and
5 storing information in a memory device such that said first action
6 is associated with said first computer event.

1 25. The method of claim 24, further comprising displaying an image of
2 said user within a window on said screen, said window including a target area,
3 and said association comprises associating said first computer event with said first
4 action displayed on said screen.